

Child Custody and Placement

Issues Involving Children

- Will both parents share **custody**—custody means participating in the major decisions regarding the child’s life, to wit, elective health care, choice of religion, and choice of education for the child. Joint legal custody is the term used to denote shared custody.

- **Periods of Physical Placement**—which parent will care for the child during what time periods.

- **Child support** must be determined pursuant to the Wisconsin Child Support Guidelines. Child support is usually determined based on the payor’s gross income. For example, if you work 40 hours per week and earn \$20.00 per hour, then your income on a monthly basis is \$3,467. Child support for one child is calculated at 17% or \$589; for two children is calculated at 25% or \$866; or for three children is calculated at 29% or \$1,005.

- Which parent will insure the child for **health care** needs. If one parent covers the child with health insurance, then that parent is entitled to reimbursement by the other parent for a portion of the health insurance premium. If this situation applies to you, then you should contact your employer’s human resources office and obtain in writing a statement of what the insurance premium is for a single insured as well as what the insurance premium is for a family plan.

- **Cooperative Parenting Education.** This is a service provided by the University of Wisconsin Extension Education Department providing information for each parent on how they can cooperate in providing a healthy environment for their child(ren). Attendance at this single session is usually required.

- **Mediation Services.** This service is available through this office. The cost is \$100.00 per person. Either party may request said services through application to this office. If both parties are in agreement, you can also seek mediation services through private family counseling services.